United Nations A/66/PV.38

General Assembly
Sixty-sixth session

Official Records

38th plenary meeting
Friday, 21 October 2011, 3.45 p.m.
New York

President: Mr. Al-Nasser ..... (Qatar)

The meeting was called to order at 3.45 p.m.

Agenda item 113 (*continued*)

Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs

(a) Election of five non-permanent members of the Security Council

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): As Members will recall, at its 37th plenary meeting this morning, after three rounds of balloting, including two rounds of restricted balloting, the Assembly elected Guatemala, Morocco, Pakistan and Togo as members of the Security Council for a two-year term beginning on 1 January 2012.

There remains one seat to be filled from among the Eastern European States. We shall therefore proceed to the third restricted ballot.

This fourth round of balloting shall be restricted to the two States from among the Eastern European States that were not elected but obtained the largest number of votes in the previous ballot, namely, Azerbaijan and Slovenia. This is in accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure.

Before we begin the voting process, I should like to remind members that, pursuant to rule 88 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order on the actual conduct of the voting.

Ballot papers marked "B" will now be distributed. May I ask representatives to write on the ballot papers the name of the State for which they wish to vote. Ballot papers marked "B" for the Eastern European States will be declared invalid if they contain the name of a State other than Azerbaijan or Slovenia, as well as if they contain the name of more than one State.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Baptista (Angola), Mr. Tegos (Greece), Mrs. Dockendorf (Luxembourg), Mr. Bonifaz (Peru), Ms. Popovici (Republic of Moldova) and Ms. Wairatpanij (Thailand) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 3.55 p.m. and resumed at 4.15 p.m.

The President: The result of the voting is as follows:

Group B — Eastern European States	
Number of ballot papers:	192
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	192
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	191
Required two-thirds majority:	128
Number of votes obtained:	
Slovenia	98
Azerbaijan	93

As no candidate has received the required two-thirds majority in the preceding ballot, there remains one seat to be filled from among the Eastern Europe States. We shall therefore proceed to a first unrestricted

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ballot. This fifth round of balloting is in accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure.

May I remind the Assembly that any member State from among the Eastern European States may be a candidate except outgoing members, those already members of the Security Council, and those just elected. To make this clear, apart from the permanent members of the Security Council, Bosnia and Herzegovina cannot be voted for in the present balloting.

Before we begin the voting process, I should like to remind members that, pursuant to rule 88 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order on the actual conduct of the voting.

We shall now begin the voting process.

Ballot papers marked "B" will now be distributed. May I ask representatives to write on the ballot papers the name of the State for which they wish to vote. Ballot papers marked "B" for the Eastern European States will be declared invalid if they contain the name of more than one State.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Baptista (Angola), Mr. Tegos (Greece), Mrs. Dockendorf (Luxembourg), Mr. Bonifaz (Peru), Ms. Popovici (Republic of Moldova) and Ms. Wairatpanij (Thailand) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 4.25 p.m. and resumed at 4.45 p.m.

The President: The result of the voting is as follows:

Group B — Eastern European States	
Number of ballot papers:	193
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	193
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	192
Required two-thirds majority:	128
Number of votes obtained:	
Slovenia	98
Azerbaijan	93
Hungary	1

As no candidate has received the required two-thirds majority in the preceding ballot, there remains one seat to be filled from among the Eastern Europe States. We shall therefore proceed to a second unrestricted ballot. This sixth round of balloting is in accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure.

May I remind the Assembly that any member State from among the Eastern European States may be a candidate except outgoing members, those already members of the Security Council, and those just elected. To make this clear, apart from the permanent members of the Security Council, Bosnia and Herzegovina cannot be voted for in the present balloting.

Before we begin the voting process, I should like to remind members that, pursuant to rule 88 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order on the actual conduct of the voting.

We shall now begin the voting process.

Ballot papers marked "B" will now be distributed. May I ask representatives to write on the ballot papers the name of the State for which they wish to vote. Ballot papers marked "B" for the Eastern European States will be declared invalid if they contain the name of more than one State.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Baptista (Angola), Mr. Tegos (Greece), Mrs. Dockendorf (Luxembourg), Mr. Bonifaz (Peru), Ms. Popovici (Republic of Moldova) and Ms. Wairatpanij (Thailand) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 5 p.m. and resumed at 5.15 p.m.

The President: The result of the voting is as follows:

Group B — Eastern European States	
Number of ballot papers:	193
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	193
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	192
Required two-thirds majority:	128
Number of votes obtained:	
Azerbaijan	96
Slovenia	95
Estonia	1

As no candidate has received the required two-thirds majority in the preceding ballot, there remains one seat to be filled from among the Eastern Europe States. We shall therefore proceed to a third unrestricted ballot. This seventh round of balloting is in accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure.

Before we begin the voting process, I should like to remind members that, pursuant to rule 88 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order on the actual conduct of the voting.

We shall now begin the voting process.

Ballot papers marked "B" will now be distributed. May I ask representatives to write on the ballot papers the name of the State for which they wish to vote. Ballot papers marked "B" for the Eastern European States will be declared invalid if they contain the name of more than one State.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Baptista (Angola), Mr. Tegos (Greece), Mrs. Dockendorf (Luxembourg), Mr. Bonifaz (Peru), Ms. Popovici (Republic of Moldova) and Ms. Wairatpanij (Thailand) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 5.25 p.m. and resumed at 5.45 p.m.

The President: The result of the voting is as follows:

Group B — Eastern European States	
Number of ballot papers:	193
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	193
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	192
Required two-thirds majority:	128
Number of votes obtained:	
Azerbaijan	100
Slovenia	91
Estonia	1

As no candidate has received the required two-thirds majority in the preceding ballot, there remains one seat to be filled from among the Eastern Europe States. We shall therefore proceed to a fourth unrestricted ballot. This eighth round of balloting is in accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure.

Before we begin the voting process, I should like to remind members that, pursuant to rule 88 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order on the actual conduct of the voting.

We shall now begin the voting process.

Ballot papers marked "B" will now be distributed. May I ask representatives to write on the ballot papers the name of the State for which they wish to vote. Ballot papers marked "B" for the Eastern European States will be declared invalid if they contain the name of more than one State.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Baptista (Angola), Mr. Tegos (Greece), Mrs. Dockendorf (Luxembourg), Mr. Bonifaz (Peru), Ms. Popovici (Republic of Moldova) and Ms. Wairatpanij (Thailand) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 5.50 p.m. and resumed at 6.05 p.m.

The President: The result of the voting is as follows:

Group B — Eastern European States	
Number of ballot papers:	191
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	191
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	190
Required two-thirds majority:	127
Number of votes obtained:	
Azerbaijan	110
Slovenia	80

As no candidate has received the required two-thirds majority in the preceding ballot, there remains one seat to be filled from among the Eastern Europe States. We shall therefore proceed to a fifth unrestricted ballot. This ninth round of balloting is in accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure.

However, in view of the late hour, balloting will continue on Monday, 24 October, in the morning immediately after the election of the members of the Economic and Social Council.

I call on the representative of Azerbaijan on a point of order.

Mr. Mehdiyev (Azerbaijan): I wish to inform the Assembly that I have asked the Secretariat to prolong the voting for an additional hour today.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): I should like to inform the representative of Azerbaijan that, first, simultaneous interpretation services will end shortly and that, secondly, we have received a request from the delegation of Slovenia to adjourn the meeting. It shall therefore be difficult to continue with the voting, and I suggest that we proceed with the plan to resume voting for the members of the Security Council on Monday, 24 October 2011, following the election of the members of the Economic and Social Council.

Mr. Mehdiyev (Azerbaijan) (*spoke in Arabic*): I would point out that I made my request to the Secretariat a half-hour ago.

(*spoke in English*)

I would therefore ask you, Sir, to make an exception in this case.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): We find ourselves confronted with two conflicting requests. Although the time allotted for the voting today ran out at 6 p.m., and despite a request that we adjourn the meeting following the latest round of balloting, we have received another request that the voting be extended.

A decision in this matter is undoubtedly difficult to make. Given the fact that the time allocated to this meeting has elapsed and that simultaneous interpretation services will no longer be available, and also given the importance of this matter, I refer this problem to the members of the General Assembly to decide the best way to proceed.

Mr. Araud (France) (*spoke in French*): As you know, Sir, it is the unwavering practice of my country's delegation to refuse to proceed with our work without simultaneous interpretation services in all of the Organization's official languages.

Mr. Churkin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We did not hear the proposal to continue the meeting without simultaneous interpretation. As we understand it, interpretation services may be continued at the request of the President of the General Assembly.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): Although the time allocated to this meeting has elapsed, I suggest we continue our work until we have completed a final round of voting.

It was so decided.

The President: I repeat that, as no candidate has received the required two-thirds majority in the preceding ballot, there remains one seat to be filled from among the Eastern Europe States. We shall therefore proceed to a fifth restricted ballot. This ninth round of balloting shall be restricted to the two States from among the Eastern European States that were not elected but obtained the largest number of votes in the previous ballot, namely, Azerbaijan and Slovenia. This is in accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure.

Before we begin the voting process, I should like to remind members that, pursuant to rule 88 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order on the actual conduct of the voting.

We shall now begin the voting process.

Ballot papers marked "B" will now be distributed. May I ask representatives to write on the ballot papers the name of the State for which they wish to vote. Ballot papers marked "B" for the Eastern European States will be declared invalid if they contain the name of a State other than Azerbaijan or Slovenia, as well as if they contain the name of more than one State.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Baptista (Angola), Mr. Tegos (Greece), Mrs. Dockendorf (Luxembourg), Mr. Bonifaz (Peru), Ms. Popovici (Republic of Moldova) and Ms. Wairatpanij (Thailand) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 6.40 p.m. and resumed at 6.55 p.m.

The President: The result of the voting is as follows:

Group B — Eastern European States

Number of ballot papers:	191
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	191
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	190
Required two-thirds majority:	127
Number of votes obtained:	

Azerbaijan	113
Slovenia	77

As no candidate has received the required two-thirds majority in the preceding ballot, there remains one seat to be filled from among the Eastern Europe States. We shall therefore proceed to a sixth restricted ballot. This tenth round of balloting is in accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure.

However, in view of the late hour, balloting will continue on Monday, 24 October, in the morning immediately after the election of the members of the Economic and Social Council.

The meeting rose at 7 p.m.